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THE SPANISH SCHOOL

Report of the Acting Director. Spanish Summer School.
Middlebury, Summer 1961.

At the close of this Summer the Acting Director (in the absence of Sr. García Lorca, who is spending his vacation in Europe) wishes to express his satisfaction for the way the Session has progressed and to thank both the faculty and students for their help and cooperation. We must mention several factors which have given added interest to our School this Summer. First, the presence of the two distinguished Visiting Professors: Professor López Morillas of Brown University, who has given two special courses in Spanish literature, and Professor Piñera of New York University who has given one course on the Quijote and another on Spanish American literature. Both the one and the other, in the company of their charming wives, have contributed enthusiastically to the social and intellectual life of the School. The rest of the faculty, some of them also accompanied by their wives, have again this year, as in years past, created an atmosphere of "one great big happy family" in the School, as well as showing a constant and sincere interest in the students. These latter continue to see in the faculty not only a teacher but also an understanding and compassionate friend.

As in previous years the students have enjoyed various attractions. Group singing in the open air besides a delightful program by the small choir which offered a concert of music and poetry of the Renaissance were the welcome contibutions of Professor Ruiz. The Visiting Professors each gave a Lecture, as did Professor Casalduero who was here for a few days' visit before leaving for an extended vacation in Europe. There were also two lectures with slides illustrating points of interest in Spain by Professors González López and Asensio. The concert of the Spanish School this year was given by the Chilean pianist Mario Miranda; it took place and with much success on Sunday, July 9th.

Theatrical activities, always an important phase of School life, were directed this year by Professor Ricardo Florit, due to the fact that the Director who had been appointed, Professor Luis A. Baralt, long a member of the faculty, fell sick at the last minute. Professor Florit directed first the dramatic reading which customarily opens the season, in Mead Chapel. This year a group of our professors read "La verdad sospechosa" by Ruiz de Alarcón. In the performance of the puppet show, which is also customary in our School, there were presented three "pasos" by Lope de Rueda, with the same success as in previous years. The Students' production, under the direction of Prof. Florit, featured a charming performance of "La guarda cuidadosa" by Cervantes and then an animated program of song and dance, all performed by members of the student body. Finally, José López Rubio's "La otra orilla" performed by the faculty brought to a very successful close our theatrical activities.

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The Director has seen with great pleasure the growing interest of the students in their work this year. The larger number of younger students shows a better quality of work and great seriousness of purpose and concentration. In general it can be said that the standard of the School continues to rise in number and in quality.

The Methods courses, offered over a number of years by Professors Luke and Ana Nolfi, continue being a great success, and every year the interest of the students continues to increase. In this regard it is planned to set up --perhaps next year -- a special course on Realia for Secondary Schools , given by Mrs. Nolfi. Generally everything concerned with means and methods of teaching continues to increase in interest for our students.

In this vein, this School is very pleased to note that the officials of the Summer Schools are planning to establish an Audio Visual Aid Center with the corresponding tape recording equipment. The conditions in which the actual language laboratory operates in Hillcrest, with lack of sufficient space make urgent and necessary the creation of the aforementioned Center which will be, without doubt, one of the improvements which the School hopes to see soon.

The Acting Director wishes to finish this report with fervent thanks to Vice President Freeman and to all his colleagues for the cooperation and considerateness which they have shown him this Summer. Relations with the other Schools could not have been better, and this adds to our pleasure. Finally, we wish to thank, in a special manner, our secretaries, Miss Joan Appel and Mr. Richard Pelletier for their untiring aid and last but not least our Dean, Professor Guarnaccia without whom it would not have been in the slightest degree possible to achieve our aims, and thanks to whom it has been not only easy but pleasant to do so.

Eugenio Florit

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Acting Director